

Welcome to Middle School September 2023

Dear Middle School Parent,



Have those words hit you yet? You are the parent of a middle schooler! As this reality sets in, allow me a few minutes of your time to introduce you to our middle school ministry, the EDGE.

First off, if this time in your child's life could be summed up with one word, it would be **CHANGE!** Over the next 3 years, your son/daughter will go through some exciting, interesting, amazing, and at times frustrating changes. These changes include:

- **Social Changes** - Peer pressure increases as friendships become a bigger influence than in the past. "What will my friends think?" becomes a guiding question in their young lives.
- **Physical Changes** - Puberty, growth spurts and many other changes taking place in their bodies. Oh and your food bill may go up a bit!
- **Intellectual Changes** - They will begin to think abstractly, push boundaries by questioning authority, and yes, you'll even see some maturing along the way as well.
- **Spiritual Changes** - Questioning their faith and what they have been taught can be a scary time for parents, but this is a necessary part of our kids starting to make their faith their own.

As our kids get older and mature, their lives will be shaped by the choices that they will make for themselves, especially when it comes to their faith.

That is why our goal is to introduce your pre-teen to a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ and to give them the spiritual tools and resources they need to grow in that relationship. We seek to do this through our weekly meeting on Wednesday nights and through the various events and retreats that we do throughout the year. In addition, I am incredibly blessed to work alongside an awesome team of volunteers that love Jesus and provide great examples of what it looks like to be a Jesus-follower for our kids.

In a world of ups and downs, difficulties and challenges, our goal and prayer is to be a constant source of spiritual encouragement and stability, always

pointing our kids to Jesus and making sure that we have lots of fun along the way!

The new year at EDGE kicks off on Wednesday, September 20th, 7PM-8:30PM. They can also start attending our monthly FUSION events where we bring both the middle and high school groups together for a night of worship, spiritual challenge, and fun. Our FUSION kickoff is **Friday, September 15th @ 7:30PM.** I hope that your child will come and check it out. My advice; give it time! Transitions and change, though exciting, can be overwhelming for our kids. The big picture is this: spiritual investments are always worthwhile! As our kids remain patient and consistent in the transitional process, that fear and anxiety often dissipates quickly.

Looking back, it was during my middle school years that I became passionate and serious about my relationship with Jesus Christ. It's when I started to really own my faith and make it my own. My prayer is that all of the kids who walk through our doors will do the same. As we seek to provide a safe environment for your child to connect socially and to be challenged spiritually, I want to thank you for allowing Island Christian Church, and myself, to play a small part in God's plan for your child. I look forward to getting to know you and your family this coming year... **and remember, you are not alone, we are in this together!**

Pastor Seth

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